

main (R. R.) M.B. Milvaine

REMARKS

BEFORE THE

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ON THE

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SANITARY SCIENCE.

By R. R. M'ILVAINE, M.D.,

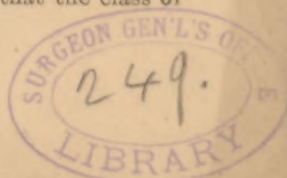
OF NEW YORK, FORMERLY OF CINCINNATI.

REPORTED BY J. W. HADLOCK, M.D.

SECOND EDITION.

MR. PRESIDENT: I wish to inquire of our colleague if I understood him, in his able and elaborate paper, that there was a deterioration of the American people, and the feminine portion in particular? [the doctor was proceeding to discuss the question just raised by Dr. Black in his paper, when he was called on, by many voices from various parts of the house, to take the platform, that all might hear more distinctly what he had to say. In taking the stand, he remarked that as time was precious, his remarks would be characterized with great brevity.] In the first place, the gratuitous assertion that the beauty of the American women is short-lived, and that before they have scarcely attained their majority, like the early cloud or morning dew, passes away, is a proposition incapable of demonstration.

I have had, Mr. President, the opportunity of seeing women in various places and under varied circumstances. I have not seen them at the receptions of that scamp Napoleon, nor those of Victoria, though I have met with persons who attended both. I am too much of a democrat to seek admission to the residences of despots. Now, let us begin by illustration; and we will give the late Mrs. Madison as a sample of the olden-time women. At her advanced age had she many peers? and we leave the history of her time to answer whether she had any superiors. We give her, then, as the type of a class; and we are happy to say that the class of



which she was the representative is not extinct, but will assert, without fear of successful contradiction, that there are among the women of Ohio to-day representatives of every decade from that of womanhood to the octogenarianism, that will compare in point of proportion, which is the foundation of beauty, with the same number of women in this or any other country.

Now, Mr. President, as to the proofs that we are not deteriorating. In 1850, if I remember rightly, in every 2,178 of the entire population of the United States, there was one over 90 years of age, and in every 25,000, in round numbers, there was one over 100 years of age. Mr. President, it is not I who speak, it is history. It is the bible of politics and progress, the census of the United States for 1850, that I credit with these facts.

But further, Mr. President, the State of New York in 1860 had a white population of 3,831,500. Of this number there were 1,646 persons over 90 years of age, namely, 704 men, and 942 women. Thus in every 2,327 there was one over 90, and in every 41,647 there was one over 100 years; in both cases women being in the majority.

Mr. President, we will next call your attention to the State of Ohio. In 1860, with a white population of 2,302,808, there were over 90 years of age, 760. Of this number were 366 men, and 394 women, and, therefore, there was in every 3,030 one over 90 years of age, and in every 33,864 one over 100 years of age. In this case, as in that of New York, aged women are in the majority.

Again, Mr. President, we will direct your attention to old Virginia. In 1860, with a white population of 1,047,229, there were 245 men and 296 women over 90 years of age (total, 541), which gives one over 90 in every 1,935, and in every 15,178 there was one over 100 in her entire white population.

And further, Mr. President, we shall cite a more northern latitude. In 1860 the white population of the State of Vermont was 314,369. In this small population there is evidence of vitality. There were over 90 years of age 146 men and 180 women; and here, as in all the States named, women have the majority. In every 961 there was one over 90, and over 100, 13, being one in every 24,182 of her entire population.

Here, Mr. President, we have given a tabulated view of each section, east, west, north, and south, and we think it proves conclusively that we are not deteriorating.

Now, Mr. President, the entire white population of the United States in 1860 was 26,690,206. Of this number, one in every 2,775 and a fraction was over 90 years of age. Of this population

there were 902 over 100 years of age, making one in every 29,578 and a fraction. These figures, Mr. President, speak for themselves, and we pass to inquire whether man in the aggregate has been deteriorating. It was intimated that in the hotter climates, as in India, the population have to be recruited from more temperate regions. That the capacity of the white man—who is the emigrating man—for self-sustaining and reproducing in all regions is a question I think history has settled. Emigration is not peculiar in our day, nor are discoveries. Pharaoh Necho, 616 years before our era, sent out an expedition on a voyage of discovery, which was successful in its mission. Bartholomew Diaz, in 1485 of the Christian era, discovered the Cape of Good Hope, which Pharaoh Necho's men had discovered 2,101 years before. Barnatz, a Holland navigator, discovered in 1596 the Island of Spitzbergen, the most northerly land on the globe, so far as we know, in the Arctic regions, in latitude $80^{\circ} 48'$. But this is not all. The descendants of these same Hollanders founded a colony at the Cape of Good Hope in 1650, which, so far as known, remains to the present time. This is in latitude $34^{\circ} 30'$ south.

Now, Mr. President, another subject has been touched upon, and authorities have been cited. You are aware, sir, that authority is not always truth, but truth is always authority. The agitation of this subject is not of yesterday; it carries us to the past. I mean sir, the subject which has been so severely censured in his paper by our colleague, namely, the marriage of relatives. This is a subject that the Popes claimed at an early day to regulate by their authority. Thus Gregory the First, A.D. 598, pronounced marriages unlawful as far as the seventh degree of collateral consanguinity, computed from the common stock. Pope Innocent the Third, in 1198, in the plenitude of his power, claimed that he had a right to dispense with the law; hence the Lateran Council, in 1215, passed a remedy for those disabilities, and permitted marriages after the fourth degree, or what we call third cousins. It may be assumed that these things were done by the Popes to be as unlike Judaism as possible. From 325 of the Christian era, on the 19th of June, when the first Nicene Council met, from that time it was the well-defined policy of those unsanctified wretches calling themselves Christians to persecute the Jews, century by century, till 1790, when a new era dawned. The Jew, under the benign influence of the French Revolution, found himself recognized as a man.

Now, Mr. President, we are brought face to face with facts against fancy, and demonstrations in opposition to assertion

That science should have its romance as well as literature, is not to be thought strange. For years we have been told, by those who profess to guide us, that the source of all our disasters, social and physical, was the intermarriage of relations. We have stated that the Jew found himself a man since 1790. To-day they are socially, morally, intellectually, politically, and pecuniarily, stronger than they have been at any period since the year 70, when, on the 10th of July, the Roman general destroyed their temple and blotted them out as a nation. Now let us inquire into their origin, and this demands of us to go east to Mesopotamia. There, 1998 years before our era, the father of the Jewish nation, Abraham, was born. In due time he married his half-sister. The issue of this marriage was a son, but on this son there was no outer and visible sign of imperfect organization. In due time this son, Isaac, married his first cousin, Rebecca, and from this union sprang two sons, Jacob and Esau, the former in due time marrying his two cousins. He' (Jacob,) the "New England Yankee of the Bible," became a trader, and his ability to acquire property is historical, and the standing type of his race to this day.

But we will not fatigue you with their history—all can read it who choose. We pass now to the unduplicated man of history, Moses, who was born 1571 years before our era. Was his mother a Greek, and his father from the banks of the Tigris? No! His father, (Amram,) married his own aunt, his father's sister. Was Moses deaf? or was he idiotic? or was his brother Aaron a sufferer from mental incompetency? or have the descendants of the Jews to our day been distinguished by those diseases which are said to be the results of intermarriages? This we emphatically deny; and with all these facts before us, with nearly 2,000 years of oppression from a dominant religion, by their adherence to the great fundamental principle of the Mosaic faith they have triumphed over all disabilities. Hence we may conclude, in the language of one of their own prophets, "That Judah yet ruleth with God."

[The doctor made the above remarks impromptu, and had to draw on his memory for the dates given, and he stated that if any mistakes occurred in data he stood ready to be corrected.]